

Arnold-Temple House
East side of County Road 15180,
.2 mi. South of State Route 162
(Strasburg Road); West Chester vicinity
(about five mi. west of corporate line)
Chester County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-1109

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Washington Planning and Service Center
1730 North Lynn Street
Arlington, Virginia

ARNOLD-TEMPLE HOUSE

Location: East side of County Road 15180, .2 mi. South of State Route 162 (Strasburg Road); West Chester vicinity (about five mi. west of corporate line), Chester County, Pennsylvania.

Present Owner: Mrs. Edward L. Webster, 182 Rolling Road, Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania.

Statement of Significance: This early building (c. 1715 - 1725) was the site of a fulling mill for over 175 years and preserves almost all architectural detail both exterior and interior.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: Edward Beeson 1703-1712 (no house on tract); Richard Buffington 1712; Thomas Arnold 1712-1760; Cooper Family 1760-1818; Temple Family 1822-1916; John Thornbury 1916-1921; Charles Fullerton 1921-1922; Herbert Gray 1922-1936; Eleanor Moore Webster 1936 to date.
2. Date of erection: c. 1715-1725.
3. Architect, builder, suppliers etc.: Unknown.
4. Original plans, construction etc.: No old plans known.
5. Alterations and additions: In the 1798 direct tax record, Department of Internal Revenue the two-and-a-half story section only is listed. The one-and-a-half story kitchen addition must have been added shortly afterwards. Later still the roof of this last section was raised approximately 3' to give more head room in the kitchen bedroom. A false floor was put in a second floor bedroom to allow bathroom fixtures to be put in the house.
6. Important old views and references:
 - a. Views: Chester County Historical Society has several views, but none older than c. 1915.
 - b. References: Sources of information, all to be found in the Chester County Historical Society.

Classified printed and manuscript files of the Chester

County Historical Society, under the heading
West Bradford Township. Lands
West Bradford Township. Business Houses - COOPER
West Bradford
Factory

B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure:

A fulling mill was in existence on this site for a period of over 175 years. The account books for a long period may be found in the Chester County Historical Society. It is one of the few houses in the county with so much of the original woodwork intact. Probably, building another house on the property in the 1830's saved changes being made in this older one, making it one of the best preserved and best cared for in the area.

C. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated: None known.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural Character: The Arnold-Temple House serves as a good example of domestic architecture in the period 1715-1725. It is also noted for its preservation of almost all the interior and exterior architectural details.
2. Condition of fabric: Excellent.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: Original section, two-and-a-half stories, 21'-8" (two bay front, south) x 26'-6" (two bay east); 1800 one-and-a-half story section, 18'-6" (two bay front, south) x 17'-4" (one bay west).
2. Foundations: Stone.
3. Wall construction: Coursed rubble masonry.
4. Porches, stoops, bulkheads, etc.: A photograph from 1898 shows the existence of the porch in front of the kitchen addition. No earlier mention of it is made.
5. Chimneys: Two large rectangular chimneys remain. They are both located near ridge of the roof; one on east and one on west side. They are of the same uncoursed fieldstone as the house.
6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The doors appear to be the original

ones. The wooden south front door has six rectangular panels on the exterior side. On the interior the battens are arranged in a diagonal pattern. The rear north door is divided horizontally at the middle. There is a four light transom above it. The 1800 addition has a similar wooden door facing south.

- b. Windows: Three six-over-six light double-hung wooden sash and one six-over-nine-light double-hung wooden sash on the south front side; one two-over-four light double-hung wooden sash window on west side; one six-over-six light double-hung wooden sash window on north side as well as two six light fixed windows and an eight light casement window; the east side has two four-over-four light double-hung wooden sash windows and one six-over-six light double-hung wooden sash window and a small fixed attic window.

Only one set of shutters remain and these are on the south side. They are of unpainted wood and have three rectangular panels with the smallest panel at the top and the largest at the bottom.

7. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: Both the original and the 1800 addition have steeply pitched gable roofs with wooden shingles.
- b. Cornice, eaves: Cornice return on the east side gone.
- c. Dormers: None.

C. Description of Interiors:

- 1. Floor Plans: One enters the original section from the south front directly into a room with fireplace. Behind this room is another smaller one with a corner fireplace. The small one run stair is located directly in front of the rear north door. The second floor has two rooms above the front room and another room over the corresponding rear room on the first floor. The 1800 addition to the west is on a lower level and has a cooking fireplace and bake oven. There is a room of corresponding size above it.
- 2. Stairways: There is one stair in the house located in front of the back north door. It is the original one-run left-handed stair with eleven risers and no balusters. There are also a few steps used in connecting the west room with the slightly higher eastern section.
- 3. Flooring: Original.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster ceilings - board partitions.
5. Doorways and doors: The door openings are original as are the remaining doors. They are constructed of simple wooden battens.
6. Trim: The trim consists of fine original wooden panelling throughout the original house. Though not of elaborate design, the panelling is of very good craftsmanship.
7. Hardware: The hardware consists of iron hinges. There are, though, original wooden pegs connecting the door to the wall in first floor northeast room. The most commonly used hinges in the house are of the wrought-iron Snibell type.
8. Lighting: Electric.
9. Heating: Has the five original fireplaces in the two sections. No modern heating.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The house is extremely well situated with pleasant landscaping secluding it from the nearby road. It sets upon gradual earth terraces and faces south.
2. Enclosures: None.
3. Outbuildings: A barn is located approximately 175' to the northeast while the 1840 house is directly south approximately 50' away.
4. Walks, driveways etc.: The house is located at the "V" between the continuing #15180 and a driveway leading to the barn.
5. Landscaping, gardens etc.: The setting is rural with a stream located to the west and many trees surrounding the area. The lawn in front of the house is well maintained with ivy covered low walls and small grass terraces. There are no gardens but much fine shrubbery.

Prepared by Bart Anderson
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